

Lesson 9

Describing How Characters Act

Learning Target

Describing how characters in a story respond to important events and challenges will help you understand how and why they act the way they do.

- **Read** **Characters** are the people or animals in a story that face a **challenge**. A challenge is a problem that needs to be solved. Describing how characters **respond** to challenges will help you get to know them better.

Look at the picture. What is the challenge? How does each character respond? Think about why each boy acts that way.



▶ **Think** Complete the chart. Tell what the challenge is. Then tell how each character responds to it.

What the Challenge Is	How the Characters Respond
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little boy • Older boy

▶ **Talk** What will make the little boy happy? Use what you see in the picture to answer.



Academic Talk

Use these words to talk about the text.

- **characters**
- **respond**
- **challenge**

A Puppy for Oscar

by Jane Lawrence



1 Oscar wanted a puppy more than anything in the world. But his mom kept saying they could not have a dog in their apartment.

2 “We do not have a yard,” she said. “And a dog needs space to run.”

3 Oscar had an idea. There was a city park very close to their apartment. The park was really big. Maybe part of it could be turned into a park for dogs. Then Oscar’s puppy would have a place to run!

4 Now Oscar needed to turn his idea into a plan. Oscar worked very hard. He wrote letters to newspapers. He wrote to the mayor about his idea for a dog park. He talked to people about his idea. Then he got many of them to sign their names to a letter saying they wanted a dog park, too.

5 It took over a year, but Oscar finally got his dog park. And then he got what he really wanted—a new puppy!

Close Reader Habits

Circle a sentence that tells what Oscar’s challenge is.

Underline a sentence that tells how he responds to the challenge.

Explore

What is the challenge in this story, and how does Oscar respond to it?



Rereading the story will help you figure out how Oscar responds to his challenge.

Think

- 1** Complete the chart to help you understand Oscar’s challenge and how he responds to the challenge.

Oscar’s Challenge	How Oscar Responds to the Challenge

Talk

- 2** What is the main thing Oscar does to respond to his challenge? Describe an event from the story to explain your answer.

Write

- 3 Short Response** What do Oscar’s actions tell you about him? Use an event from the story to explain your answer. Write your answer in the space on page 140.

HINT What does Oscar do? Make a list of the things he does in the story.



The Snowstorm

by Annika Pedersen

- 1 The wind blew hard, shaking the barn. Outside, the falling snow whipped this way and that. Inside, Greta and her mother counted the sheep they had just brought down from the mountain. One of the sheep was missing, but which one? They saw that Lizzie, one of the new lambs, had been left behind.
- 2 Greta and her mother started back up the mountain to look for her, but there wasn't much time. Already, they could hardly see a thing in the heavy, blowing snow. "Lizzie! Lizzie!" they called out.
- 3 At last, they heard her crying back *baa-aa-aa!* They had found Lizzie, but now they were lost. How would they find their way home? Their whole world had gone white!
- 4 Then Greta saw a stream nearby. The blinding snow was still melting in it! She and her mother could follow the stream's twisting dark line down the mountain. It would lead them back to the gate near their barn.
- 5 Greta held the little lamb tight. Soon, everyone would be safe at home.

Close Reader Habits

What problem do Greta and her mom have *after* they find Lizzie? **Underline** two sentences that tell you what challenge they face.

 **Think**

- 1** Why is finding the lost lamb a challenge for Greta and her mother?
- A** They are not really sure the lamb is still missing.
 - B** They know they will be in great danger from the storm.
 - C** They have already climbed the mountain once and are worn out.
 - D** They are afraid to leave the sheep alone in the barn.
- 2** Which **best** tells about the challenge that Greta and her mother must face after they find Lizzie?
- A** They can't get Lizzie to stop crying *baa-aa-aa*.
 - B** They are getting very cold from the wind and snow.
 - C** They have to make sure there aren't any other lost sheep.
 - D** They can't see how to get back home in the snowstorm.



Rereading the story will help you figure out how the characters face a challenge.

 **Talk**

- 3** What do Greta and her mom do to respond to the challenge of finding the lost sheep? Tell your partner.

  **Write**

- 4** **Short Response** Tell what Greta sees in the storm and how it will help her, her mother, and Lizzie get home. Write your answer in the space on page 141.

HINT Think about how Greta responds to the new challenge they face.

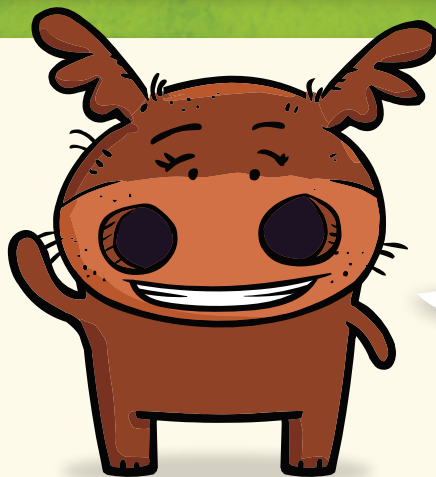


Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 137.

A Puppy for Oscar

3 Short Response What do Oscar's actions tell you about him? Use an event from the story to explain your answer.

HINT What does Oscar do? Make a list of the things he does in the story.



Don't forget to check your writing.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 139.

The Snowstorm

4 Short Response Tell what Greta sees in the storm and how it will help her, her mother, and Lizzie.

HINT Think about how Greta responds to the new challenge they face.

Check Your Writing

- Did you read the question carefully?
- Can you say the question in your own words?
- Did you use proof from the text in your answer?
- Are your ideas in a good, clear order?
- Did you answer in full sentences?
- Did you check your spelling, capital letters, and periods?



WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond this word and phrase to figure out what they mean.

- **barely**
- **town square**

Stone Soup

by Elsa Southern

1 A long time ago, a tired traveler walked into a small village. He was hungry and stopped at the first house he saw to ask for some food. He knocked, and a young woman holding a baby opened the door.

2 “Do you have a bit of food for a tired traveler?” the man asked. “I have been walking all day without a bite to eat.”

3 “I’m sorry, but I have barely enough food for my family,” the woman said.

4 When the other people in the village heard the man, they started shutting their doors. “Go away! We have only enough food for ourselves,” they shouted from behind their locked doors.

5 The traveler sat down in the town square and thought for a while. Then he had a wonderful idea. “I only ask for a pot and some water!” he shouted. He took three gray rocks out of his pocket. “With these special stones I will make a delicious stone soup.”



6 “Who has ever heard of stone soup?” the villagers laughed. But some of the people were curious. They brought the traveler a pot filled with water.

7 The traveler started a fire under the large pot of water. When it began to boil, he slowly added the three stones. After a while, he put his nose over the pot and breathed in. “Ah,” he said with a twinkle in his eye. “This is almost perfect. If only we had some onions.”

8 A villager quickly grabbed a bag of onions and passed it to the traveler, who added them to the pot.

9 “Oh!” sighed the traveler, breathing in again with his nose over the pot. “This is almost perfect! If only we had some potatoes.”

10 The villagers ran to their homes. They came back carrying not only potatoes, but carrots and peas and beans and corn. Everyone wanted to help.

11 Very soon there was enough delicious soup for everyone in the village! They all ate soup until they were no longer hungry.

12 Even today, people tell the story of how such a wonderful soup could be made from stones.



 **Think** Use what you learned from reading “Stone Soup” to answer the following questions.

- 1** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

What challenge does the traveler face when he first comes to the town?

- A** He is tired and needs a place to spend the night.
- B** He knocks on a door and a young woman holding a baby answers.
- C** He is hungry and hopes someone will give him food.
- D** He wants to fix a dinner but doesn’t have a pot.

Part B

Underline a sentence from paragraph 1 below that **best** tells about the answer in Part A.

A long time ago, a tired traveler walked into a small village. He was hungry and stopped at the first house he saw to ask for some food. He knocked, and a young woman holding a baby opened the door.

- 2** What is the challenge the traveler faces when no one will help him?
- A** He has to find wood so that he can build a fire to keep warm.
 - B** He needs to learn how to make friends with everyone in town first.
 - C** He has to walk to another town where people might be kinder to him.
 - D** He must find a new way to get people to share their food with him.

- 3** Why does the traveler keep putting his nose over the pot and breathing in?
- A** to make the people think he is cooking something tasty
 - B** to make the people want to make their own soup
 - C** to make the people angry that they won't get any soup
 - D** to make the people sad that they didn't help him
- 4** What do you learn about the traveler from the way he faces his challenge?
- A** He is clever because he gets people to choose to help him.
 - B** He is lazy because he has other people do his work for him.
 - C** He is unhappy because he is too poor to buy his own food.
 - D** He is proud because he knows more about cooking than others.

- 5** Read the sentence from the passage.

The villagers ran to their homes.

The word "village" means "a small town." What is the **best** meaning of the word "villagers"?

- A** people who eat soup in a small town
- B** people who work in a small town
- C** people who live in a small town
- D** people who help others in a small town

6 Read paragraph 6 from the story.

“Who has ever heard of stone soup?” the villagers laughed. But some of the people were curious. They brought the traveler a pot filled with water.

Underline the sentence in paragraph 6 that **best** explains why the people bring the traveler a pot filled with water.



Write How does the traveler respond to the challenge of getting food?

7 **Plan Your Response** Review the challenge the traveler has. Write three things he says in the story that help him get what he wants.

8 **Write an Extended Response** How does the traveler respond to the challenge of getting food? Use details from the story in your answer.



Learning Target

How does describing how characters respond to important events and challenges help you understand how and why they act the way they do?
